



April 24, 2007

H.Res. 299 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs

Floor Situation

H.Res. 299 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) on April 17, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, but was not considered.

H.Res. 299 is expected to be considered on the floor on April 24, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 299 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect through such programs as the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.

Background

According to the most recent annual estimates, 3.6 million children were the subject of child abuse and neglect investigations in 2005, an increase of 462,000 children from 2001. As of the end of 2005, approximately 513,000 children were unable to live safely with their families and instead were living in foster homes and institutions.

An estimated 1,460 children died because of abuse and neglect in 2005. Child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs through the increased use of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, the increased health care costs resulting from mental illness, substance abuse, and domestic violence, and the loss of economic productivity due to unemployment and underemployment.

Cost

H.Res. 299 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact:

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.